

# Victim Services & Restitution Update

## *Making a Difference for Victims...*

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

### VICTIM OFFENDER DIALOGUE

*Six years after her daughter's death, Linda still felt searing pain in her heart every time she thought about her. How could this happen? What kind of an animal could have done such a thing? Linda's life was turned upside down by the senseless crime and the loss of her beautiful daughter. After her near collapse upon hearing from the police officer that her daughter's body had been found, Linda had not been able to grieve – she was emotionally numb. If only she could talk to the murderer. Why had he chosen Tracie? What could Linda have done to keep her daughter out of harm's way? She wanted to see him herself, to see if he was sorry and ask the questions that continued to haunt her each night when it was quiet and she was alone.*

The Office of Victim Services and Restitution (OVSR) has initiated a process to develop and implement a Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD) program that will be available to victims of violent crime whose offender is incarcerated in the California Department of Corrections (CDC). The OVSR received a technical assistance grant from the National Institute of Corrections that provides funds to hire consultants to assist OVSR in formulating essential policies and procedures that will apply to all victim/offender dialogue programs implemented in CDC institutions. The consultants will also train a core group of facilitators who will oversee the extensive assessment and preparation required for victims and offenders participating in the program.

Victim Offender Dialogue is defined by OVSR as a victim-centered, offender-sensitive facilitated preparation and dialogue process that begins with and revolves around the victim. The process for a

face-to-face meeting is traditionally initiated only at the request of the victim(s), co-victim(s), or victim survivor(s). Participation by the victim and the offender is strictly voluntary and can be discontinued by either party at any point in the preparation or the dialogue.

The purpose of the dialogue is to help victims of violent crime take control of their experience and try to come to terms with the circumstances of their tragedy. It is for victims who find themselves "stuck" and unable to accomplish what they need on their own, even after counseling and therapy. Often victims have questions that they feel only the offender can answer and they have a need to express to the offender the full

impact that the crime has had on their lives and lives of others. Offenders often experience a self-awareness that encourages them to finally be fully and personally accountable to their victims.



The first phase of the program will be implemented in select CDC Institutions in Northern California. The OVSR is currently recruiting volunteers who wish to be facilitators in the VOD. Volunteers must complete six consecutive days of comprehensive training to become facilitators. Training for the first class of facilitators will be held in late July.

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## NEW VICTIMS' GUIDE: *HELPING CRIME VICTIMS*

One motto that the Office of Victim Services and Restitution (OVSR) has continually lived by is "Fulfilling the Promise." This is our promise to you, the victim, that you are not alone, and that there are many resources that have been placed at your disposal. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that we announce the completion of our new Victims' Guide: *Helping Crime Victims*. It is our sincere hope that this guide may serve as a valuable source of information for you and your family in your time of need.

The Guide contains detailed explanations of several potentially confusing processes within the California Department of Corrections (CDC), as well as various resources directly related to victims of crime and their families. These resources include contact information for every California State Prison and the location of a Victim/Witness Organization in your own county which can provide you with additional advocacy and support.

At OVSR, our employees have a passion for assisting those who have been victimized. If this guide does not address your questions or alleviate your concerns, please feel free to contact us at our toll-free number: 1-888-562-5874.



# Legislative News Impacting Crime Victims

The following bills have been introduced and may be signed into law.  
An update will be provided in our fall edition.

## AB 726

Eliminates the January 1, 2004 sunset date for "Megan's Law" and requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to make the following information regarding sex offenders available on the Internet: names and known aliases of the offender, photograph, a physical description, gender, race, date of birth, ZIP Code in which the person resides, and the specified crimes for which the person was required to register. Neither the offender's address nor the name and address of his/her employer is permitted to be posted on the Internet.

## S.B. 356

This bill would allow police departments of any school district to receive sex offender registry information from the Department of Justice and to be notified of high-risk sex offenders in their community.

## SB 880

The purpose is to make the intentional murder of a child under the age of 14 a special circumstance qualifying for the death penalty.

## SB 422

The purpose of this bill is to 1) provide Internet access to the Sex Offender Registry, and 2) convert the current "900" telephone service for Sex Offender Registry information into an "800" telephone service.

## SB 423

This bill would require law enforcement entities to inform the public of the presence of high-risk sex offenders in the community. Currently, the law reads they may advise the public of the presence of high-risk sex offenders in the community.

## SB 991

The law currently prohibits sex offenders from living within ¼ mile of a school. This bill would require that as a condition of parole an offender who has committed a sexual crime against a victim under 18 years of age, be prohibited from being within 500 feet from, or from loitering near a school, park, shopping mall, child day care center, or other location where children congregate regularly.

## Word Jumble

Unscramble the letters in each word. Use the underlined letter in each word to make up the final answer.

1. SEERCOUR \_\_\_\_\_

2. PAMTIC \_\_\_\_\_

3. FRARLEER \_\_\_\_\_

4. RISCSI \_\_\_\_\_

5. ICAMPSOSNO \_\_\_\_\_

6. MINTYUMCO \_\_\_\_\_

7. NASTECPEMO \_\_\_\_\_

8. EDJGU \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Answer Clue: The System Of Crime And Punishment**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Answers to Word Jumble on back cover)





## National Crime Victims



Sandi Menefee, Assistant Director, OVSR,  
reads Governor's Proclamation



OVSR staff at the March on the Capitol



Moment of Silence at CDC Headquarters



The Chosen Few



Family and friends of victims



# Rights' Week April 6-12, 2003



Governor Davis pledges his support for victims and their families



A victim's mother speaks . . .



Never Forget . . . .

## Death of a Shaman

The story began in 1980 when a young man named Yoon Saeyang arrived in America with his wife and five small children. He came in search of a new life, one that would be fulfilling and prosperous. Instead the Saeyangs found poverty, racism, drugs, jail, and the murder of a family member.

Twenty-three years later, the Saeyang children are in search of the truth and the man who murdered their sister and mother, Meuy. Meuy was 15 years old with a one-year-old daughter and pregnant with a second child. Just days before she was to wed the father of her unborn child, he murdered her. Because of language barriers, her family never knew what happened to him after he was arrested.

The Office of Victim Services and Restitution became involved in the story when Richard Hall, a director of a documentary chronicling their saga, sought information about the murderer, Lowlin Saepharn, who is serving 16 years to life at the California Men's Colony for the murder of his fiancé and their unborn child. Wendy Sanchez, an OVSR Victim Liaison, provided emotional support for family members Fahm and Lisa Saeyang as they learned of the incarceration of Lowlin and his scheduled hearing before the Board of Prison Terms (BPT) in October. The family worked hard to get to the hearing only to be advised that it had been postponed. Although devastated by the turn of events, the Saeyang family vowed to attend every hearing and deliver powerful statements of the impact the murder has had on them.

The OVSR played a small part in this family's search for the truth through 'Wendy's assistance. If you would like more information on the "Death of a Shaman", please visit the web site at [www.deathofashaman.com](http://www.deathofashaman.com).

### **Calipatria State Prison Held Its Annual Victims' Rights Memorial Ceremony**

by Octavio Peraza, Manager, Community Resources

On Wednesday, April 9, 2003, Calipatria State Prison held its annual Victims' Rights Memorial Ceremony, more than 200 hundred people attended, including representatives from the local State Senator and Assemblymember's offices. Todd Evangelist, Director, Youth For Christ, delivered a message of encouragement and support for victims and their families. Tamara Cook spoke of her personal story as a victim of domestic violence. Calipatria Unified School District Hornet Concert Band played the Star-Spangled Banner and a medley of armed forces songs.

Warden Silvia Garcia and Chief Deputy Warden Stu Ryan presented \$45,805 to several organizations and \$3500 in scholarship awards. Victims/Witness Assistance Program of Imperial County Probation Department received \$42,305 from the Joint Venture Program. Additionally, \$1500 was awarded to the Margaret Hatfield Memorial Scholarship fund. Ms. Hatfield was instrumental in generating support for the site of Calipatria State Prison and served on the Citizens' Advisory Committee. The Straight Life Program, a youth-diversion program, also set aside \$2000 for scholarship awards.

### **Region IV Headquarters Parole and Community Services Division Raises Money To Help Victims of Crime**

by Francine Munoz, Parole Agent II

On March 26, the San Bernardino Parole Complex hosted a spaghetti luncheon to raise funds for abused children. Special recognition to Two Guys Pizza, located on Highland Avenue in San Bernardino, who donated all the spaghetti. Stater Bros. donated paper supplies and soft drinks.

On April 2, 2003, Region IV Headquarters sponsored an event to raise money for programs and treatment centers that service victims. The event focused on Victims of Child Abuse and Child Abuse Prevention. Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, the California Highway Patrol and parole staff cooperated with Kid Print, the fingerprinting of children. Also on hand were the CDC Honor Guard, live music and variety of food. More than \$3,000 dollars was raised and approximately 2,000 books were donated to the Beaumont Village, the only residential treatment center for abused and neglected children in Southern California.

It is community involvement like this, in which excellence is achieved by the result of caring and compassion toward those in need, that we find our true leaders and heroes.

# Questions And Answers

**Q: Who can use the services your office provides?**

A: Anyone can contact OVSR and acquire information such as an inmate's approximate release date. In order to receive a written notification of an inmate's status, however, the offender must have been sent to State prison or be on parole, and the interested persons must submit a completed CDC Form 1707.

**Q: When is the inmate getting out?**

A: While an exact date cannot be given until the release is imminent, OVSR can usually give a rough estimate of when the inmate will be released. It is important to be aware that dates are subject to change based on many factors.

**Q: Why is the inmate getting out earlier than I expected?**

A: An inmate can receive an earlier release date due to credit for time served in jail prior to prison, or for having work time credits. For example: an inmate receives a three-year sentence, but works or goes to school full-time while incarcerated; he receives one day of credit for each day he works or attends school, effectively shortening his sentence to one and one-half years.

**Q: Do all inmates have parole hearings?**

A: No. Only inmates with a life sentence will have a parole hearing. All others will automatically be released to parole from the institution when their time is served.

**Q: Can I attend the parole hearing?**

A: Yes! If it is a Minimum Eligible Parole Date (life sentence) case and you are the victim or next-of-kin, you can attend the parole hearing. The victim should complete and submit CDC Form 1707 to OVSR. A copy of the form is sent to the Board of Prison Terms, whose staff will then provide the necessary documents for the victim to attend the hearing.

**Q: Where is the inmate paroling?**

A: By law, if there are no special circumstances, an offender is to be released to his or her last known county of legal residence. However, if special conditions **are** in effect (such as 35-mile placement), the general location of the parole will be known approximately 30 days prior to the offender's release. This information can be obtained by contacting the institution's parole desk or the parole region's re-entry facility.

**Q: Why can't I be given the parolee's residential address?**

A: The parolee's residential address is confidential information, just as the information of victims and their families is kept confidential. This is for your protection as well as the protection of the parolee.



# Let Us Know . . .

If there is a service of the Office of Victim Services and Restitution that you would like to know more about or if you would like clarification on a certain process, let us know. We will use your ideas for future articles in the OVSR Update. Please contact us by one of the following:

Website: [www.corr.ca.gov/VictimServices](http://www.corr.ca.gov/VictimServices)

E-Mail: [ovsrinet@corr.ca.gov](mailto:ovsrinet@corr.ca.gov)

Phone: (916) 358-2436 or Toll Free 1-888-562-5874

Mail: California Department of Corrections  
ATTN: Office of Victim Services and Restitution  
P. O. Box 942883  
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001

Answers: 1.Resource 2.Impact 3.Referral 4.Crisis 5.Compassion 6.Community 7.Compensate 8.Judge Final: Criminal Justice



Attn: Office of Victim Services and Restitution  
California Department of Corrections  
P. O. Box 942883  
Sacramento, California 94283-0001

Address Label